

# **Corps Connection**

Alabama Citizen Corps is a program of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

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## September is National Preparedness Month

As National Preparedness Month launches this September, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and the Alabama Department of Homeland Security will host our annual Be Ready Day at the United States Space and Rocket Center on September 14<sup>th</sup> in Huntsville, Alabama. Be Ready Day is an interactive event for all ages, featuring emergency response demonstrations, food, games, and giveaways. Be Ready Camp, an engaging learning experience for 80 area 6<sup>th</sup> graders, will precede the state-wide event culminating with a graduation on Be Ready Day. Governor Bob Riley will address the crowd at 1 p.m. on the importance of preparedness. The event will highlight first responder capabilities in Alabama while encouraging citizens to prepare for any type of disaster. Come join us for Be Ready Day September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the U.S Space and Rocket Center. Be sure to mark your calendars for this exciting preparedness event!



Questions? Please log onto [www.ServeAlabama.gov](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov)

## Alabama, are **YOU** prepared for a disaster?



**BE  
INFORMED.**



**BE  
INVOLVED.**



**BE  
READY.**

[www.ServeAlabama.gov](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov)

[www.homelandsecurity.alabama.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.alabama.gov)



## BE INFORMED

**Take this time now to gather information and facilitate understanding among your family, friends, and agencies to aid in your response to an emergency.**

### **LOCATE SHELTERS**

Different locations provide shelters for different needs such as pets, medical needs, emergency, and transitional sheltering. When you go to a shelter be sure to bring your 3-day kit, hygiene items and any other special items that you may need during your shelter stay.

### **KNOW EVACUATION ROUTES**

A key part of preparing for emergencies and disasters is knowing what you will do if the need arises. Once you have your plan, be sure to practice it and know it.

Household Exit –

- Determine a designated meeting spot outside the home to gather family members and determine the next step.
- Be sure to have all members of the family including pets in addition to your 3-day kit and any other supplies you think you may need.

Community Evacuation –

- Plan your destination in advance and determine if you will go to a shelter, a friend's home or a family home and find out in advance if you are welcome.
- Be aware of the local evacuation routes out of town by tuning into the local radio stations, new stations, or websites. You can also call local government offices for these updates.

#### **Floods? Hurricanes? Hazardous Materials? Tornadoes? Terrorism?**

Know your local hazards and risks that are more likely to happen in your community.  
In some situations it might be more appropriate to shelter-in-place rather than evacuate.

Call your local Emergency Management Agency to learn about the potential hazards in your area and surrounding communities.

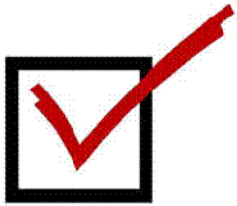
### **LISTEN FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Check with local TV stations, radio stations, and related websites such as Everything AL [www.al.com](http://www.al.com), and ABC's [www.abc3340.com](http://www.abc3340.com). Once you have found your local radio and TV stations be sure to listen consistently for new information and updates. It's also helpful to have on hand a NOAA weather radio or another emergency alert system.

For more information on National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio All Hazards, click on the following link:

<http://www.weather.gov/nwr/>

*Prepare and Distribute amongst your family, friends and co-workers a Local and Personal Contact List. Your contact list should include all of the local emergency organizations as well as close friends and family who may be able to help you in times of disaster. Also remember to contact your insurance company for specific information on your coverage in disasters.*



## BE INVOLVED

A disaster often means that many people are affected, and therefore, there are lots of opportunities to help. Take steps **NOW** to be a part of the solution when you are needed in the emergency response!



### GET TRAINED

Your local Citizen Corps Council may offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT teaches skills in first aid and disaster response, aiming to equip you with the practice you'll need to help community members when disaster strikes. Visit [www.ServeAlabama.gov](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov) to find a council near you.



### VOLUNTEER

Citizen Corps is a nationwide grass roots movement to actively involve everyone in America in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger, and better equipped for emergencies of all kinds. We all have a role in "hometown" security and Citizen Corps provides local opportunities for everyone to prepare, train, and volunteer!

In addition to CERT training, Citizen Corps offers people a variety of volunteer programs, including the following: Fire Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and Medical Reserve Corps. For additional volunteer opportunities, register with a volunteer center in your community:

**Visit our website for more volunteer opportunities in your community and around the state!**



### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

**The individual citizen is America's  
most valuable asset in the war on terrorism.**



#### STAY ALERT

- Know your neighbors and your neighborhood
- Be involved in your community and your neighborhood watch program
- *Always ask for ID of people who are in a "closed" area or want access to your home!*

#### PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY

- Use your experience, judgment, and commonsense to determine appropriate activity in the communities around you
- Maintain open relationships with your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to determine the legitimacy of mistrusting circumstances or individuals
- Always work to overcome your own stereotypes

#### REPORT SUSPECTED ACTIVITY

- Report accurate information including a physical description, place and time, and relevant information to the event or action
- Make your report immediately
- In an emergency, contact 911; in a non-emergency, call your local police department or law enforcement agency

For more information, visit:

<http://www.homelandsecurity.alabama.gov/tap/home.htm>



## BE READY

Make sure to put your intentions into action!  
Follow the steps below:

### ☒ MAKE A FAMILY PLAN

Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the event, the first important decision is whether you shelter in place or evacuate.

Make sure to establish a destination where you and your family can reunite. Know destinations in more than one direction and be familiar with alternate routes and transportation. If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Remember your 3-day kit and lock the door behind you.

Complete a contact card for each family member. Have family members keep these cards handy in a wallet, purse, backpack, etc. You may want to send one to school with each child to keep on file. Pick a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for household members to notify they are safe. →

### ☒ CREATE A KIT

Having a 3-Day Kit ready and packed will help prepare your family in the case of an emergency or evacuation. The guidelines for what you may need in the 3-day kit can be found at:

[www.ServeAlabama.gov/BeReady](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov/BeReady).

Remember any supplies that may be unique to you or your family's needs.

### ☒ PLAN FOR YOUR PETS!

The single most important thing that you can do to protect your pets if you evacuate is to take your pets with you! If it's not safe for you to stay in the disaster area, it's not safe for your pets.



Each pet is unique and only you as the owner know what they do and do not need in times of great distress. Be sure to include food, water, any medications, sturdy leashes and collars, current vaccine papers and identification photos of you and your pets together.

Before a disaster research the different shelters that are available in your community where you can place your pets during a disaster. Learn any rules or restrictions that they may have and adjust your Disaster Kit accordingly.

For a complete brochure on Pets in Disaster please check out Ready.gov at  
<http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/pets.pdf>

Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies!
Other Important Phone Numbers and Information:
<b>Family Communications Plan</b>
Contact Name:
Telephone:
Out of State Contact Name:
Telephone:
Neighborhood Meeting Place:
Meeting Place Telephone:



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Persons with disabilities and special needs often face heightened challenges during a disaster response. To ease these pressures both on the personal and the public level, take the time now to locate your resources and establish relationships with those friends, business peers, and public departments which will facilitate a safe and efficient response to any disaster. Remember, the resources are available to aid you in your preparation for and response to an emergency but you must take the initiative and pursue your own specific needs as you identify them.

### PREPARE YOURSELF

- All citizens should prepare a 3-day kit with enough supplies to survive in the home or at a shelter for at least 3 days in the event of a disaster or emergency.
- Pay particular attention to the ways in which your disability or needs may evolve or change in the event of added stress. Plan ahead by visualizing both your needs in the house and your needs in shelter so that you are adequately prepared for your unique situation.

### ESTABLISH A PLAN

- Notify your boss, leaders in your house of worship, and family or neighbors, of your specific needs, particularly in a disaster response.
- If you are in need of public transportation in the event of an evacuation, contact your local Emergency Management Agency and secure a position on the public plan for your city or town.
- Medical needs shelters, like all other shelters, will not be announced and opened until the onset of a given disaster. At this time, listen to local radio stations and news channels for information on shelters available. You can also call your local Emergency Management Agency to obtain this information.



### EMPOWER OTHERS

*Often people with special needs or disabilities are unaware of both their increased level of responsibility in a disaster response as well as the public resources available to them.*

- Help spread the word, instigate preparedness seminars and training sessions, and facilitate open discussions about the possibility of an emergency with regards to the greater community of disabled and special needs citizens.

*Remember that in the event of a disaster, if you are not a victim, you can be part of the solution. Find out ways in which you can help others in your community in the event of an emergency.*

For more information on emergency management and disabilities, please visit:  
<http://www.nod.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=11>

# Always Follow the Seven Steps to Responsible Giving During a Disaster

Help prevent a disaster within a disaster by encouraging others to donate responsibly in order to best meet the needs of those recovering from a disaster.

1. Give financial contributions
2. Host yard sales to raise money with used clothing and donate the proceeds
3. Confirm the need before donating goods, services, or money
4. Donate through an organization
5. Plan transportation in advance
6. Donations should be new, palletized, labeled, and shrink wrapped
7. Affiliate with a voluntary agency

## National Preparedness Month Events

- ☒ **September 11th-14th: Be Ready Camp**  
Disaster training camp for area 6th graders in Huntsville, AL.

- ☒ **September 14th: Be Ready Day**  
An interactive event for all ages featuring education and training on disaster preparedness and emergency response, volunteer opportunities across the state, and first responder demonstrations with thrilling equipment display — open to the public.  
Location: US Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL.  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- ☒ **September 24th: Be Ready Sunday**  
Houses of worship are encouraged to address the importance of preparedness to their congregations. More information and materials are available at [www.ServeAlabama.gov](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 BE	12 READY	13 CAMP	14 BE READY DAY	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 BE READY SUNDAY	25	26	27	28	29	30